

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /030 W
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P R 041131Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6494
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 3971

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, IS, US, OREP (STONE, RECHARD)
SUBJECT: CODEL STONE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON

SUMMARY: ALLON TOLD SENATOR STONE JUNE 2 THAT HE EXPECTED DMC TO JOIN THE LIKUD IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT COALITION AND THAT BEGIN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT WELL WITHIN THE THREE-WEEK PERIOD ALLOTTED TO HIM. HE REPEATED HIS PLEA THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT BE GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE TO PRESENT AND EXPLAIN ITS POLICIES AND CHARACTERIZED THE JUNE 21 HISTADRUT ELECTIONS AS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE KNESSET ELECTION. SENATOR STONE SUGGESTED GOI CONSIDER SEVERAL STEPS TO FACILITATE RELIGIOUS INTERCHANGES WHICH MIGHT ENHANCE ISRAEL'S IMAGE AMONG ITS NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING AN HOUR DISCUSSION WITH CODEL STONE ON JUNE 2, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON DISCUSSED THE CURRENT EFFORTS BY BEGIN TO FORM A GOVERNMENT COALITION. HE SAID HIS GUESS
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WOULD BE THAT THE DMC WOULD JOIN WITH THE LIKUD IN A CO-ALITION, ALTHOUGH HE IS AWARE OF OPPOSITION TO THAT STEP WITHIN THE DMC. ALTHOUGH THE DMC IS CLOSE TO THE ALIGNMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS, IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO USE PHRASES AND GENERALIZATIONS WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LIKUD AND THE LATTER WOULD ALSO REPLACE SOME POINTS.

2. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT HOW LONG THE GOVERNMENT FORMATION WOULD TAKE, BUT HE WOULD EXPECT THAT PRESIDENT KATZIR WOULD FORMALLY ASK BEGIN TO FORM A GOVERNMENT AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK AND THAT BEGIN WOULD SUCCEED WITHIN THE FIRST THREE-WEEK PERIOD ALLOTTED TO HIM. ALLON SAID ONE OF THE REASONS HE EXPECTED DMC TO JOIN THE COALITION IS THAT IT WAS FORMED OUT OF OPPOSITION TO THE LABOR ALIGNMENT AND WANTS TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE ALIGNMENT-- EVEN FROM WORKING WITH IT IN OPPOSITION TO A BEGIN GOVERNMENT.

3. ALLON WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, FOREIGN AMBASSADORS AND EVEN FOREIGN SENATORS NOT TO PRE-EMPT OR PREJUDGE THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THERE IS A GREAT RIFT BETWEEN THE ALIGNMENT AND THE LIKUD ON MANY POINTS, THE LIKUD WILL BE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ALIGNMENT FEELS THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR POLICIES AFTER THE GOVERNMENT IS FORMED; THIS IS CLEARLY WHAT THE ELECTORATE WANTED AND THAT WISH SHOULD BE RESPECTED. ALLON SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED THIS POINT TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EC NINE; HE TOLD THE EC THEY SHOULD REFRAIN FROM A STATEMENT ON THE ME AT THEIR JUNE MINISTERIAL MEETING BECAUSE SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

4. ALLON SAID THE HISTADRUT ELECTION ON JUNE 21 IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO THE LABOR PARTY THAN THE GENERAL ELECTION.
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IF LABOR LOSES THE MAJORITY IN THE HISTADRUT -- AND THE SITUATION TODAY IS NOT GOOD, ALTHOUGH IT IS IMPROVING -- THE CONCEPT OF THE TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION WOULD BE IN DANGER. IT IS VITAL FOR LABOR TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE HISTADRUT AND IT IS WORKING VERY HARD TO DO SO. HE SEES A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION EFFORTS AND THE HISTADRUT ELECTION; IF A COALITION IS FORMED PRIOR TO JUNE 21 WHICH INCLUDES THE DMC, MANY HISTADRUT VOTERS WILL VOTE LABOR IN ORDER TO STRIKE A BALANCE IN THE COUNTRY BETWEEN LIKUD/DMC IN THE GOVERNMENT AND LABOR IN THE HISTADRUT.

5. SENATOR STONE ASKED WHAT POLICIES THE U.S. SHOULD FOLLOW IN THE INTERIM PERIOD. ALLON SAID WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR "BUSINESS AS USUAL." WE SHOULD HONOR ALL COMMITMENTS (OF THIS AND PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS), SUPPLY ALL SUPPLIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROMISED, AND GENERALLY KEEP THE ATMOSPHERE AS GOOD AS POSSIBLE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE COMMITMENTS HE HAD IN MIND WERE TO OPPOSE

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A THIRD STATE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN AND TO HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THE PLO AS LONG AS IT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AND DID NOT ACCEPT 242. THE SENATOR ASKED IF ISRAEL HAD SOUGHT REASSURANCE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF BASES FOR NEGOTIATIONS OTHER THAN 242 AND 338. ALLON SIAD THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SUCH ASSURANCES FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS AND FROM THE SECRETARY IN LONDON AND THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ALSO REASSURED DINITZ IN WASHINGTON.

6. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAD NOTED THAT IN HIS INTERVIEW IN US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID THAT "PARTICULARLY" 242 WOULD BE A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THIS WORRIES HIM BECAUSE HE DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY OTHER RESOLUTION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A BASIS. EVEN THE INTERIM AGREEMENTS WITH SYRIA AND EGYPT CONTAIN COMMITMENTS THAT FUTURE AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BASIS OF 338 AND THIS --BECAUSE OF THE REFERENCE BACK TO 242 -- IS AN INDICATION THAT EVEN THE ARABS ACCEPT 242. HE WARNED THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT FORCE ISRAEL TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS NOT ACCEPTABLE --EVEN THOUGH ISRAELIS MAY QUARREL AMONG THEMSELVES, THEY WOULD

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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UNITE IF THE U.S. TRIED TO FORCE THEM TO ACCEPT SOMETHING WHICH WOULD WEAKEN ISRAEL.

7. SENATOR STONE THEN ASKED IF THERE WERE NOT SOME STEPS WHICH ISRAEL COULD TAKE IN THE GENERAL AREA OF RELIGIOUS VISITS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF ISRAEL IN THE AREA. ALLON SAID ISRAEL HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO GET PERMISSION FOR MUSLIM ISRAELIS TO MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. HOWEVER, SOME HAD BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO GO TO JORDAN TO OFFER CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF QUEEN ALIA AND THIS WAS ENCOURAGING. HE NOTED THAT A RECENT MEETING AND HANDSHAKING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND FORMER MAYOR JA'ABARI OF HEBRON WAS SHOWN ON JORDANIAN TELEVISION.

8. THE SENATOR SAID HE WOULD BE VISITING RIYADH AND WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF PILGRIMAGES OF ISRAELI MUSLIMS THERE. HE THEN MENTIONED THE CASE OF ABDULLAH GHOSH
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WHO RECENTLY DIED IN JORDAN AND WHOSE FAMILY ASKED THAT HE BE BURIED IN PRESENT ISRAEL. PERMISSION HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED AND IT WOULD BE A GREAT GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP IF PERMISSION COULD BE GRANTED FOR HIS REMAINS TO BE INTERRED IN ISRAEL OR IF, IN HIS NAME" A PROCEDURE COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF SUCH REQUESTS. ALLON SAID HE HAD HEARD OF THE CASE ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE WISH FOR BURIAL IN ISRAEL. HE NOTED SEVERAL OTHER CASES OF ARABS, EVEN ONE PLO POET AND ACTIVIST, WHO WERE BURIED IN ISRAEL. HE SAID HE WOULD STUDY THE SUGGESTION.

9. THE SENATOR THEN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD IN AMMAN THAT A MUSLIM WHO WISHES TO ENTER THE WEST BANK OR JERUSALEM MUST HAVE A RELATIVE THERE. THIS IS A SERIOUS HINDRANCE TO OBSERVANT MUSLIMS WHO HAVE NO RELATIVES IN THE AREAS BUT WHO WISH TO VISIT JERUSALEM TO COMPLETE THEIR PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA, MEDINA AND JERUSALEM. COULD SOMETHING BE DONE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION TO FACILITATE SUCH VISITS? ALLON NOTED THAT 75 TO 80 THOUSAND MUSLIMS CROSS THE BRIDGES EACH YEAR AND THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ARE VERY LOOSE IN THEIR INTERPRETATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS. HE COULD NOT RECALL A CASE IN WHICH AN EXCEPTION HAD BEEN REQUESTED. THE SENATOR ASKED IF HE COULD STATE IN RIYADH THAT THOSE WHO HAVE

MADE THE HAJ COULD COME TO JERUSALEM TO COMPLETE THEIR PILGRIMAGES. AS AN INITIAL STEP, IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE ISRAELI ARABS NOR ALL PILGRIMS BUT COULD BE RESTRICTED TO NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES HAVING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

10. THE MINISTER SAID THIS LATTER CATEGORY WOULD INCLUDE IRANIANS, WHO HAVE NO DIFFICULTY ENTERING ISRAEL ANYWAY. HE THEN POINTED OUT THE SECURITY PROBLEMS AND DANGERS OF INFILTRATION AND AGITATION FROM SUCH ACCESS, BUT SAID HE WOULD THINK ABOUT IT AND GIVE AN ANSWER.
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HE ASKED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SENATOR NOT CREATE ANY UN-REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS AND NOT GIVE HIS PROPOSALS ANY PUBLICITY. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT MANY ARABS ALREADY TRAVEL TO ISRAEL AND SOME RECIPROCITY IS NEEDED; AS IT IS, THE PRACTICING MUSLIMS IN ISRAEL ARE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING THEIR PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA.

11. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY CODEL STONE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, OREP, IS, US, (STONE, RICHARD), (ALLON, YIGAL)
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